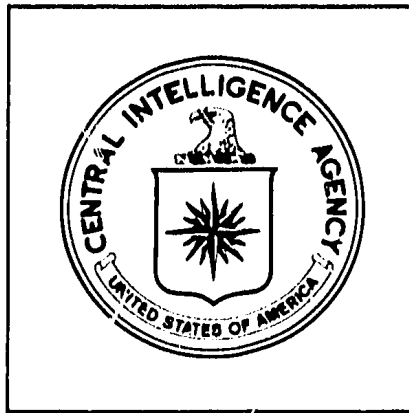


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Military Developments 29 Oct 75 TCS 3930/75

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**STAFF NOTES:**

# **Military Developments**

**Top Secret**

TCS 3930/75  
October 29, 1975

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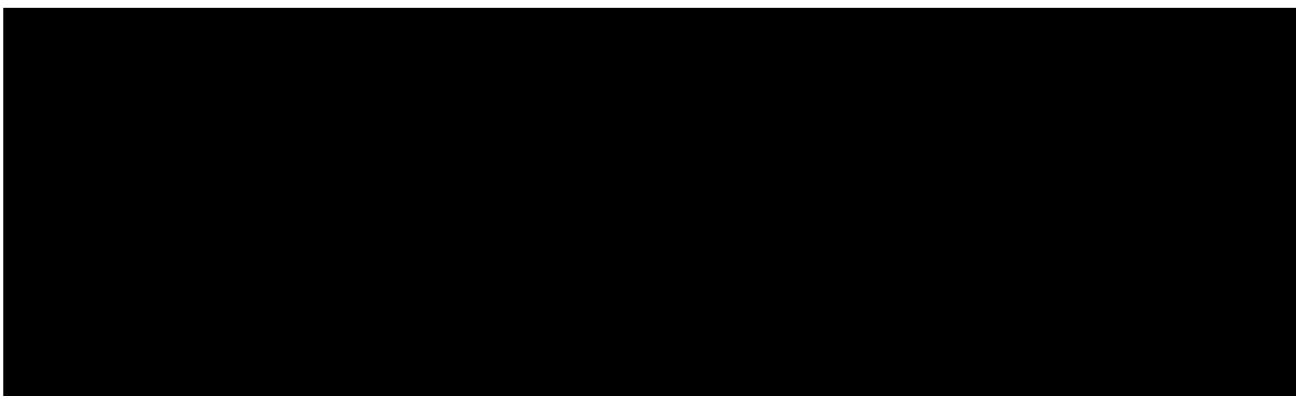
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25X1



BANGLADESH: Former President's Security Force Disbanded

Bangladesh reportedly has absorbed the 15,000-man Rakkhi Bahini paramilitary force into the regular army.

the unit's 17 battalions have been split up and deployed to several units of the Bangladesh army under a reorganization plan announced early last month by President Mushtaque. In a broadcast recently monitored in Dacca, the government informed the public for the first time of the new status of the Rakkhi Bahini. The government also announced that former members of the unit wishing to serve in the army would have to meet stiff selection requirements.

The Rakkhi Bahini was established in 1972 by the former President, Mujib Rahman, to assist in the maintenance of internal security. The unit operated independently of the command structure of the Bangladesh armed forces. It was under the direct command of the former President. The Rakkhi Bahini reportedly received preference over the army in training and equipment which only added to the tensions between the services. The paramilitary force was believed loyal to Mujib, but during the coup d'etat last August, it apparently offered no resistance to the plotters, and in the weeks following the coup, the unit made no moves to oppose the new government.

Under a military assistance agreement between New Delhi and the former government in Dacca, India has

-3-

Staff Notes: Military Developments are prepared for the internal use of CIA and reflect the immediate views of analysts in the Office of Strategic Research. Observations and queries may be directed to the analyst named following each item.

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X1 equipped and trained both the Rakhi Bahini and the Bangladesh army. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] The absorption of the units into the army effectively brings the army under the control of the new government in Dacca.

Since the new government in Dacca has taken over, President Mushtaque has been actively seeking to upgrade the army's inventory and defensive capability. The Bangladesh army--with the absorption of the Rakhi Bahini--has some 50,000 men under arms. Dacca reportedly is seeking military assistance from fellow Muslim countries--including Pakistan. Bangladesh and China recently established diplomatic relations, and there is a good chance that Peking may provide Dacca with some small arms and ammunition. [REDACTED] 25X1

X1  
-4-

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